

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 310105Z AUG 74 ZFF-5

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7960

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3339

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO, CS, CU, VE

SUBJECT: CUBAN SANCTIONS

1. FONMIN FACIO CALLED ME IN AT 5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, TO GIVE ME CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON CUBAN SANCTIONS FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO BOGOTA AND CARACAS. THE TIMEING AND PROJECTED END-RESULT REMAIN MUCH AS WE HAD PREVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD THEM, BUT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE CHANGE OTHERWISE IN THE SUBSTANCE ORNKAA AS FACIO DESCRIBES IT -- THE "CONTEXT" OF THE ACTION.

2. ACCORDING TO FACIO, THE OAS AMBASSADORS OF COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA WILL JOINTLY NEXT WEEK CALL FOR A MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION OF CUBA. THE COUNCIL WOULD THEN MEET ON SEPTEMBER 16 OR 17 TO APPROVE AN MFM ACTING AS THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION UNDER THE RIO TREATY, SAID MEETING TO BE HELD TWO MONTHS LATER IN QUITO. THIS MFM WOULD PRESUMABLY VOTE TO CONSIDER THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA NO LONGER IN EFFECT, LEAVING EACH STATE FREE TO DETERMINE ITS OWN POLICY TOWARD CUBA.

3. STILL TO BE DECIDED IS WHETHER OR NOT THE PERMANENT COUNCIL SHOULD STILL ESTABLISH A SPECIAL "STUDY COMMISSION" TO REPORT TO THE MFM IN NOVEMBER. FACIO SAYS THAT THE OTHER TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE LEFT THIS UP TO HIM, AND HE IS STILL IN-
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CLINED TO HAVE IT. THE "CONTEXT" OF THIS STUDY, HOWEVER, AS OF

THE MFM ITSELF WILL NO LONGER BE PRECISELY TO DETERMINE WHETHER CUBA HAS CEASED TO CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE HEMISPHERE, BUT RATHER WHETHER THE CHANGING TIMES, END OF COLD WAR, AND SEARCH FOR A NEW "DIALOGUE" DO NOT WARRANT A NEW APPROACH TO CUBA WHICH NECESSITATES LIFTING MANDATORY SANCTIONS. CLEARLY, THE THREE SPONSORS ARE CONFIDENT BOTH THE STUDY COMMISSION AND THE MFM WILL DECIDE THAT THEY DO, ALTHOUGH FACIO SAYS THE MFM WILL STILL REQUIRE 2/3 VOTE. HIS THINKING FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STUDY COMMISSION RUNS TO COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, BRAZIL AND ECUADOR.

4. FACIO SAYS THIS SHIFT IN APPROACH WAS NECESSARY TO MEET CONCERNS OF COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA. THEY ARGUED THAT CUBA CANNOT BE PLACED IN "DEFENDANT'S BOX" AS FORMAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AND DECISION BY PERMANENT COUNCIL UNDER RESOLUTION I OF NINTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION WOULD HAVE DONE. MOREOVER, COLOMBIA AT LEAST WAS NOT PREPARED TO SAY THAT CUBA HAS CEASED ALL EXTERNAL SUBVERSION EFFORTS IN COLOMBIA, EVEN THOUGH GOC WANTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS IN ORDER TO NEGOTIATE ITS REMAINING PROBLEMS WITH CUBA. SO THE ABOVE SCENARIO IS INTENDED TO ACCOMPLISH THE SAME OBJECTIVE OF GETTING SANCTIONS LIFTED WITHOUT DIRECTLY CONFRONTING RESOLUTION I.

5. FACIO EMPHASIZED TO ME THAT HE HAD SUCCEEDED AGAINST HEAVY ODDS IN PRESERVING THE TIMETABLE WE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, I.E., NO FINAL ACTION BEFORE LATE NOVEMBER. HE SAYS THAT HQESIDENT LOPEZ WAS ESPECIALLY OPPOSED TO THIS TIMETABLE, ARGUING THAT IT WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO U.S. ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO FACIO, PRESIDENT PEREZ WAS IN THE END DECISIVE IN PERSUADING LOPEZ TO GO ALONG WITH NOVEMBER SCHEDULE.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT IN WHICH TO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THIS DECISION. FACIO WILL DRAFT FINAL TEXTS OF RESOLUTIONS OVER WEEKEND AND CIRCULATE THEM TO COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY. HE HAS PROMISED ME A COPY ON MONDAY WHICH I WILL CABLE.

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